

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 521

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Walter F. Collins of
Midtown.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Walter F. Collins; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Collins was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Walter Collins was born in Winchester on December 15, 1917, to Amos and Mary Collins; and

WHEREAS, he grew up in the Chattanooga area and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1940 from Tennessee Technological University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Collins served with valor and distinction as a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Coast Guard during World War II, from 1942 to 1946; and

WHEREAS, upon his return to civilian life from the military, Walter Collins joined the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) as a cost accountant, there he met Ethel Jones, to whom he was married in 1949; and

WHEREAS, his TVA projects included the Paradise Steam Plant in Kentucky and the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant in East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Collins retired from the TVA in 1978 after thirty-seven years of estimable service, at which time he earned his graduate degree in education from Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville; and

WHEREAS, a kind and public-spirited citizen, Walter Collins had served as President of the Kingston Lions Club and member of the Union Lodge #38; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Collins took up an interest in jogging later in life when he and his wife moved to their house in Midtown Heights; he ran more than 640 races between 1978, when he

was of sixty, and his passing, including a nine-year string of more than forty races per year between the ages of 74 and 83; and

WHEREAS, in his honor, local runners have proclaimed a spring race in Kingston as The Walter Collins 5K Road Race; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Collins was an active and devout member of the First Baptist Church of Kingston, which he faithfully served as a longtime deacon and Sunday School teacher; and

WHEREAS, his numerous accomplishments aside, Walter Collins was also deeply devoted to his family and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his wife of fifty-two years, Ethel Jones Collins, his parents, and his brother, George Collins; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Collins is survived by his daughters, Carol Collins Fox and Sue Collins (James) Reed, and one grandson, Barrett Collins Reed; and

WHEREAS, Walter Collins leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Walter F. Collins, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Collins.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.